Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 14: Cancelled

15. (currently amended) A method of producing a porous, plate-shaped metallic composite, including the steps of:

providing metallic fibers; and

compressing and fusing said metallic fibers together in a single process step, wherein the fusing is performed with pulse fusing using surface-shaped electrodes, wherein said pulse fusing is capacitor pulse fusing, and wherein the fusing step is carried out in less then 1 s.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said providing step comprises providing metallic fibers in the form of prefabricated metallic fiber mats.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said metallic fibers are derived from bulk material and are initially separated.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein opposite flat sides of said metallic composite are fused to respective cover layers in the form of wire meshes.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15, that is carried out continuously to form an endless metallic composite.

20. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said method is carried out in inert gas.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim 15 ~~23~~, wherein the fusing step is carried out in less than 10 ms.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said metallic fibers are subjected to pressure prior to or during the fusing step.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the pressure is produced with a pressing force of 0.1 N/mm^2 to 10 N/mm^2.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein said pressing force is from 1.5 N/mm^2 to 6.0 N/mm^2.

28. (withdrawn) A sound-dampening panel formed of metallic fiber fleece having metallic fibers that are fused together, wherein said fused-together fibers are disposed between two cover layers.

29. (withdrawn) A sound-dampening panel according to claim 28, wherein said metallic fiber fleece is fused to said cover layers.

30. (withdrawn) A sound-dampening panel according to claim 28, wherein said cover layers are in the form of wire meshes.

31. (withdrawn) A gas burner insert formed of a metallic fiber fleece having metallic fibers that are fused together, wherein said fused-together metallic fibers are disposed between two cover layers.

32. (withdrawn) A gas burner insert according to claim 31, wherein said cover layers are in the form of wire meshes.